

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 804

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DA

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER TALKS ABOUT (A) US-EC RELATIONS,
(B) GREENLAND, (C) HIS GOVERNMENT, AND (D) HIS TRAVEL PLANS

1. PRIME MINISTER HARTLING LUNCHEDED WITH ME ALONE TODAY
AND DISCUSSED FRANKLY SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.
CHIEF AMONG THESE WERE US-EC RELATIONS. AFTER HE
BROACHED THE MATTER I TOLD HIM THAT WHILE WE DO NOT
WANT A CONFRONTATION WITH THE NINE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE
THAT A CONSULTATIVE LINK MUST BE A VITAL PART OF ANY

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SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT. HE REPLIED THAT HE COULD

CERTAINLY APPRECIATE OUR POSITION AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN DANISH RELATIONS WITH AMERICA ARE THE CORNERSTONE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY. ASKED IF THIS MEANS THAT HE AGREES WITH OUR DESIRE FOR A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BEFORE MAJOR EC DECISIONS ARE ARRIVED AT, HE SAID IT DID.

2. WHILE I DID NOT MENTION THE FACT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GULDBERG RECENTLY INDICATED TO ME THAT HE MORE OR LESS AGREED WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD AMERICA, THE PRIME MINISTER I BELIEVE HAD THIS IN MIND WHEN HE MADE IT PLAIN TO ME THAT HE IS IN ACCORD WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VIEWS. HE THEN EXPRESSED A GREAT DEAL OF ADMIRATION FOR BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND SAID HE HOPED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DOMESTIC TROUBLES WOULD SOON BE OVER.

3. HE THEN TOOK UP THE MATTER OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE AND SAID HE HOPED THAT RECENT DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN MY COUNTRY AND THE NINE HAD NOT MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT NATO TO THE EXTENT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR. I REPLIED THAT IT HAS CERTAINLY NOT MADE IT EASIER, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT PLAYS ALONG WITH NEUTRALIST SENTIMENT IN CONGRESS. I ALSO, HOWEVER, CITED THE PRESIDENT'S FIRM BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATO DETERRENT.

4. I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT AMBASSADOR BARTELS HAD TOLD ME WHEN WE DISCUSSED GREENLAND AND THE SALMON PROBLEM IN WASHINGTON THAT HE FEARED THAT THE GREENLANDERS WOULD SEEK TO INCLUDE THE MATTER OF OUR TWO BASES IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. I ADDED THAT I CONSIDERED THESE MATTERS TOTALLY UNRELATED AND WOULD LIKE HIS VIEWS. HE REPLIED THAT HE AGREED WITH ME COMPLETELY AND WOULD DO HIS BEST TO SEE THAT NO SUCH IRRELEVANT ISSUE WAS RAISED.

5. HE CONFESSED HIMSELF NOT TOO WELL INFORMED ON THE MERITS OF THE GREENLANDERS' DESIRE FOR AN INCREASE IN SECRET

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THEIR PRESENT SALMON QUOTA OF 1,100 TONS BUT SAID THAT HE HAS VISITED THE FISHING VILLAGES THERE A NUMBER OF TIMES AND REALLY DOES NOT SEE HOW THE POPULATION CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT FISHING. I REPLIED THAT WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SALMON CATCH TO THE GREENLANDERS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE COD CATCH IS DECREASING, BUT THAT WE DO OBJECT TO THE GREENLANDERS APPARENT INABILITY TO STAY WITHIN THEIR QUOTA. I POINTED OUT THAT

IN 1972 THE CAUGHT 20 PERCENT ABOVE THEIR QUOTA AND LAST YEAR 43 PERCENT ABOVE IT. NOW, ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS, THE GREENLANDERS WISH NOT ONLY TO IGNORE THESE BREACHES OF THE AGREEMENT BUT TO BE REWARDED BY A NEW QUOTA OF 1,700 TONS.

6. ASKED ABOUT THE PERMANENCE OF HIS GOVERNMENT, HE REPLIED THAT HE FELT IT WOULD LAST AT LEAST INTO NEXT YEAR AS HE DOES NOT THINK THE OPPOSITION IS INTERESTED IN TAKING OVER THE COUNTRY. HE ADMITTED THAT DENMARK'S FISCAL SITUATION IS VERY GRAVE, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS THE IMBALANCE OF PAYMENTS, BUT SAID THAT THIS IS A PLAGUE AFFECTING THE WHOLE WORLD.

7. ASKED ABOUT HIS TRAVEL PLANS, HE SAID HE HOPES TO VISIT THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AN IDEA THAT IS BEING ARDENTLY SUPPORTED BY PEKING'S AMBASSADOR HERE. ASKED ABOUT THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON CURRENT EVENTS, HE SAID THAT THEY ARE EXTREMELY NAIVE, "LIKE A LITTLE BOY'S". I ASSUMED THIS TO BE THE ANTI-RUSSIAN LINE WHICH THE LESS SUBTLE CHINESE ARE NOW PARROTING AROUND COPENHAGEN.

8. ALTHOUGH A BIT PUDGY FOR HIS 59 YEARS, I FOUND THE PRIME MINISTER IN GOOD SPIRITS AND PLEASED OVER HIS DAUGHTER'S RECENT WEDDING AT WHICH HE OFFICIATED IN HIS OLD ROLE AS A MINISTER OF THE LUTHERAN FAITH. HE SAID HE WAS VERY MUCH ANNOYED WITH THE LOCAL PRESS FOR CRITICIZING HIM FOR HAVING SERVED IN THIS CAPACITY.

9. IN CONCLUSION, HE SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED TO HAVE HAD THE TALK AND HOPED THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO HOLD THESE PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS OVER FUTURE GOOD LUNCHESES. HE
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SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO TALK WITH AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WHO HAS HAD DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE BEFORE HIS POSTING TO DENMARK, AND ADDED THAT DURING THE TIME HE SERVED AS HIS COUNTRY'S FOREIGN MINISTER FROM 1968 TO 1971 HE BECAME FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF DIPLOMACY IN THE AFFAIRS OF NATIONS.

10. COMMENT: WHILE THERE IS NO QUESTION AS TO PRIME MINISTER HARTLING'S SINCERE REGARD FOR AMERICA AND THE NATO LINK, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT HIS PARTY HOLDS ONLY 22 SEATS IN THE DANISH PARLIAMENT OF 179 MEMBERS.
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